

Appln. No. Serial No. 10/529,809
Amdt. Dated 2/7/06
First Response in Appln, Reply to Office Action of 11/07/2005
Page 7 of 11

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The Appendix includes annotated sheets of drawings showing changes made to Figs. 1 and 3 and replacement sheets for Figs. 1 and 3. In Fig. 1, a legend "Prior Art" has been added. In Fig. 3, reference numbers 3f, 3g, and 31a have been added.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets
Annotated Sheets Showing Changes

Appln. No. Serial No. 10/529,809

Amdt. Dated 2/7/06

First Response in Appln, Reply to Office Action of 11/07/2005

Page 8 of 11

REMARKS

Upon entry of the foregoing amendments, Claims 1-9 are pending in this application. The Examiner rejected Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b), rejected Claims 1 and 2 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e), rejected Claim 3 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), objected to Claim 2, objected to the specification, and objected to the drawings. The specification, Claims 1 and 2, and the drawings have been amended and new Claims 4-9 have been added in the foregoing amendments. No fees are believed due; however, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account 11-0855.

Claim 1 Is Not Anticipated by Mochizuki

The Examiner rejected Claim 1 as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,579,178 to Mochizuki ("Mochizuki"). Mochizuki describes a cover 30 for a mirror device which includes an outer cylindrical portion 36, a rim 35, and an inner cylindrical portion 34, as shown in Fig. 3. The outer cylindrical portion 36 extends in an axial direction of the shaft 13, the rim 35 extends in a direction substantially perpendicular to the axial direction of the shaft 13, and the inner cylindrical portion 34 extends inside the shaft in the axial direction of the shaft. The cylindrical portion, the rim and the inner cylindrical portion surround the upper end portion of the shaft and provide an air permeable clearance 31. In contrast, Claim 1 requires an end portion cover with one end at the tip of the cylindrical portion and the other end at a point covering the penetration end surface of the shaft. The rim 35 described by Mochizuki extends beyond a point covering the upper end of the shaft to include the air permeable clearance. Thus, Mochizuki does not describe an end portion cover, as required by Claim 1.

Claim 1 Is Not Anticipated by Sakata

The Examiner rejected Claim 1 as anticipated by JP11-59275 ("Sakata"). The Examiner asserted that the cover of Sakata includes a cylindrical portion (CP) which extends in the axial direction of the shaft and engages with the outer surface of the shaft when the

Appln. No. Serial No. 10/529,809

Amdt. Dated 2/7/06

First Response in Appln, Reply to Office Action of 11/07/2005

Page 9 of 11

shaft is inserted and an end portion cover (EPC) which bends toward the shaft from a tip of the cylindrical portion and covers a penetration end surface of the shaft and cited Figures 3 and 7. Figure 3 of Sakata describes a groove at the bottom part of the cover 23 at a position that corresponds to the shaft 21. However, the cover 23 does not cover the end surface of the shaft. Thus, Sakata does not disclose a cylindrical portion which extends in an axial direction of the shaft and engages with an outer surface of the shaft when the shaft is inserted into the housing and an end portion cover with one end at the tip of the cylindrical portion and the other end at a point covering the penetration end surface of the shaft, as required by Claim 1.

Claims 1 and 2 Are Not Anticipated by Yoshida

The Examiner rejected Claims 1 and 2 as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,811,270 to Yoshida ("Yoshida"). This rejection is traversed for the reasons discussed below.

Claim 1

Yoshida describes a mirror device having a cylindrical member 100 provided in the vicinity of the upper end portion of the shaft 16. The cylindrical member 100 includes an outer cylinder 102 that extends inwardly and then downwardly to form the inner cylinder 108, as shown in Fig. 1 and described at Column 5, lines 7-23. The outer cylinder 102 and the inner cylinder 108 form a groove or ring-like gap 110 that covers the upper end portion of the shaft. Column 5, lines 31-35. Yoshida fails to disclose an end portion cover with one end at the tip of the cylindrical portion and the other end at a point covering the penetration end surface of the shaft, as required by Claim 1.

Claim 2

The Examiner alleged that Yoshida teaches that the tip of the cylindrical portion (the portion of the cylindrical portion between element 100 and 108, shown in Fig. 1) is inclined toward the shaft in a free state. Figure 1 illustrates an assembled mirror device where the tip of the cylindrical portion 102 extends upwards and is parallel with the shaft 16. Figure 1 does not describe the cylindrical portion in a free state. Thus, Yoshida does not teach that

Appln. No. Serial No. 10/529,809
Amdt. Dated 2/7/06
First Response in Appln, Reply to Office Action of 11/07/2005
Page 10 of 11

the tip of the cylindrical portion is inclined toward the shaft in a free state, as required by Claim 2.

Claims 2-9 Are Patentable over the Cited References

Claims 2-9 depend from independent Claim 1. The remarks made above in support of the patentability of Claim 1 are also applicable to distinguish Claims 2-9 from the cited references. The support for new Claim 4 can be found on page 8, lines 2-6 of the specification. The support for new Claims 5 and 6 can be found in Fig. 2. The support for new Claim 7 can be found on page 7, line 26 to page 8, line 1 of the specification. The support for new Claim 8 can be found on page 11, lines 15-18 of the specification. The support for new Claim 9 can be found e.g. in Fig. 3. The specification and Fig. 3 have been amended to include the reference numerals showing the elements recited in the new claims. Accordingly, Claims 2-9 should also be allowed.

Objections to Claim 2, the Specification and the Drawings

The Examiner objected to Claim 2, the specification, and the drawings for some informalities. Claim 2 has been amended to replace "a tip" with "the tip" as suggested by the Examiner. The specification has been amended to replace "Fig. 7" with "Fig. 1" on page 8, line 25 of the specification, and to correct the reference numeral 21 as reference numeral 23 on page 7, line 17 of the specification. Fig. 1 has been amended to include a legend "Prior Art".

Appln. No. Serial No. 10/529,809
Amdt. Dated 2/7/06
First Response in Appln, Reply to Office Action of 11/07/2005
Page 11 of 11

CONCLUSION

The foregoing is submitted as a complete response to the Office Action identified above. This application should now be in condition for allowance, and the Applicants solicit a notice to that effect. If there are any issues that can be addressed via telephone, the Examiner is asked to contact the undersigned at 404.685.6799.

Respectfully submitted,



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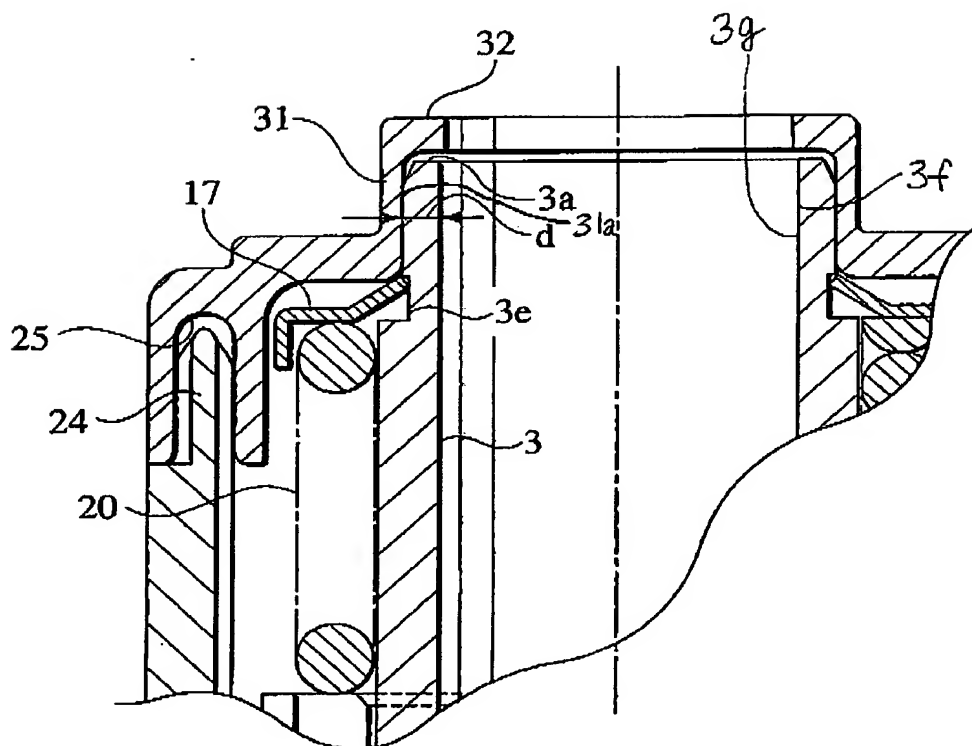
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Title: Mirror Device for Vehicle

ANNOTATED SHEET

3/6

FIG.3



Inventor: Hiroyasu ONUKI
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Title: Mirror Device for Vehicle

ANNOTATED SHEET

1/6

FIG. 1
PRIOR ART

